

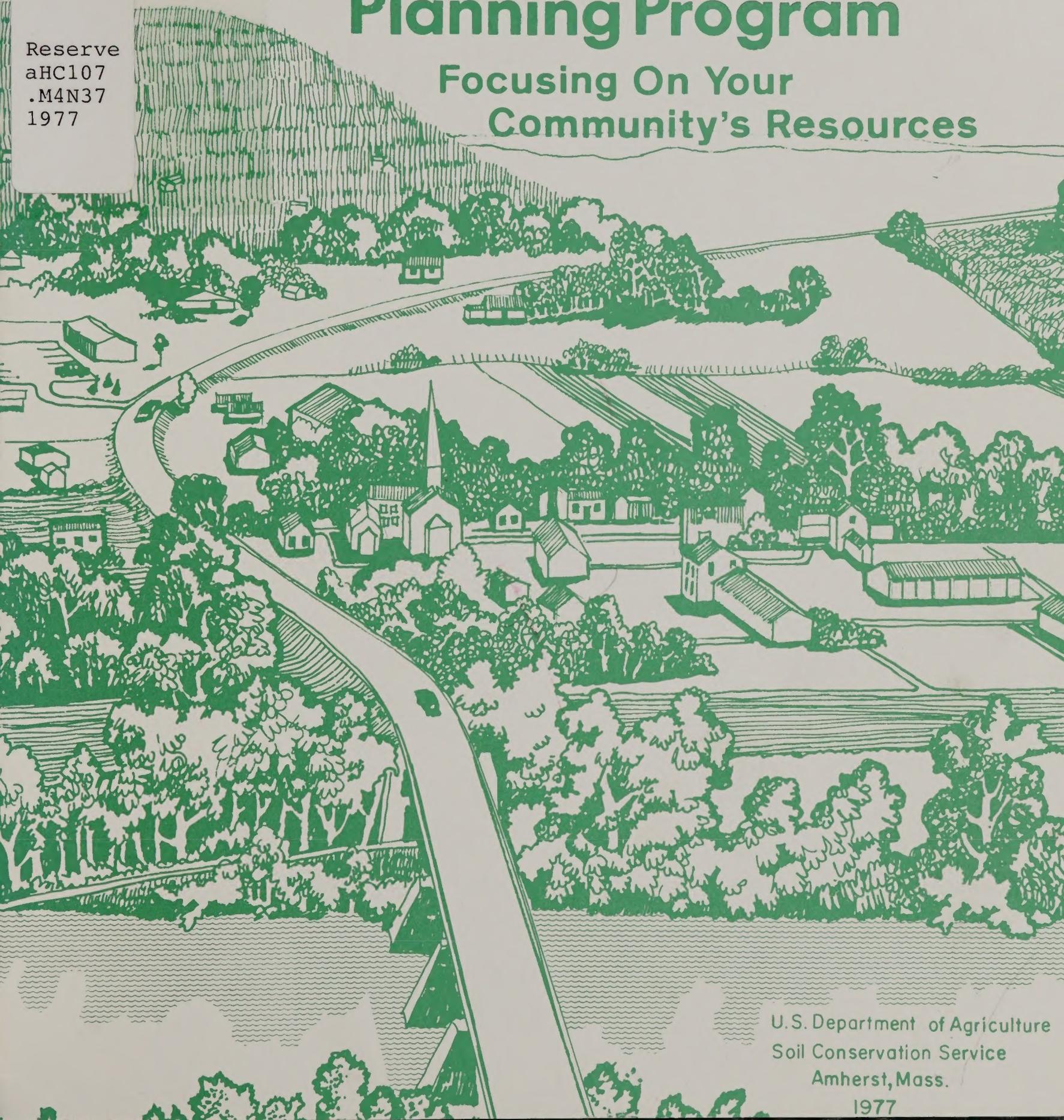
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A Natural Resources Planning Program

Focusing On Your
Community's Resources

Reserve
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1977



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Amherst, Mass.

1977

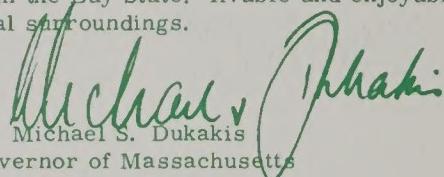
Fellow Environmentalists:

We are all environmentalists in Massachusetts, because we recognize that so much of our state's special quality of life stems from our unique natural resources.

Virtually every community in the Commonwealth is asking the same hard questions about its natural resources: how to preserve them; how to enhance them; and how to harmonize these goals with the need for a healthy economy.

The environmental quality planning process outlined in this pamphlet can help. Citizens and government, working together, can draw up a balance sheet for each community, laying the groundwork for wise, well-informed decisions.

This should be the goal for all of us in the Bay State: livable and enjoyable communities in harmony with their natural surroundings.

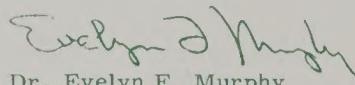


Michael S. Dukakis
Governor of Massachusetts

As one privileged to be currently involved in the conservation district and conservation commission movements this pamphlet has particular significance to me.

It represents objectives that have withstood the test of time, techniques that have been developed and found practicable, and a real sense of teamwork between federal, state, local, and citizen interests that is so much in the Bay State tradition.

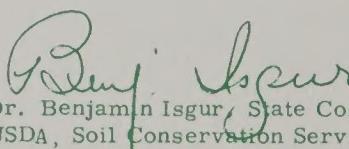
I am certain that our Commonwealth will be the richer for these efforts on its behalf.



Dr. Evelyn F. Murphy
Mass. Secretary of Environmental Affairs

Fitting towns to their environments is the prime objective of the Natural Resources Planning Program. This pamphlet describes in everyday language: (1) what the program is all about, (2) how citizens can measure the quality of the natural resources base of their town's environment, and (3) how citizens can go about improving the quality of their natural resources.

It is largely a do-it-yourself environmental program with guidance from a natural resources technical team. A town can start the "ball rolling" by making application through its Town Conservation Commission or Town Planning Board to its local Conservation District.



Dr. Benjamin Isgur, State Conservationist
USDA, Soil Conservation Service

Natural Resources Planning TODAY —



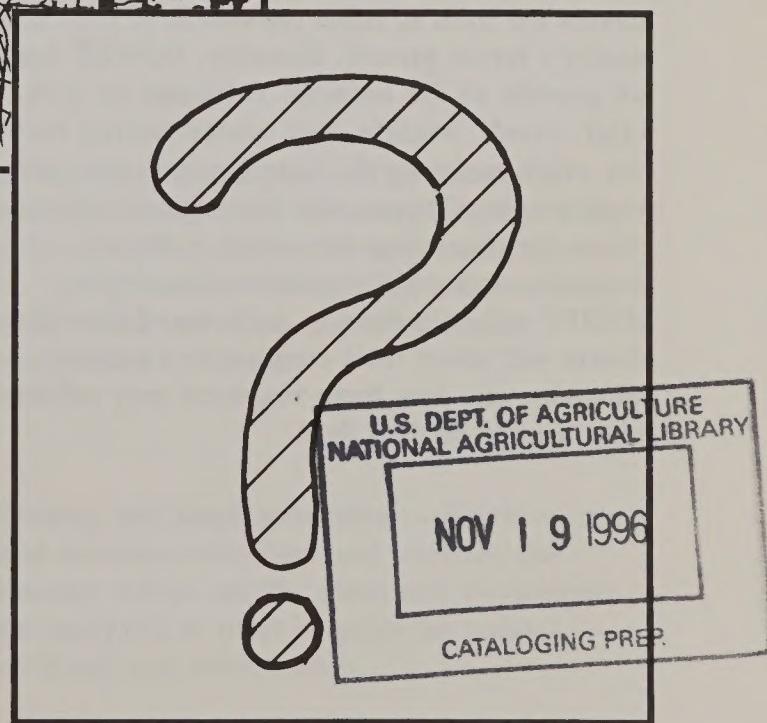
YESTERDAY



TODAY

Since even before colonial times, the resources used or not used, conserved or depleted by one generation have been the legacy or the problem of the next. This has been the experience of Massachusetts citizens since colonial times. It's backed by records of conservation-oriented federal, state and local agencies over many years.

For a
Better
TOMORROW!



TOMORROW

Although the conservation effort has run strong in the Commonwealth, sprawling development continues to put pressures on our natural resources. Citizens and community leaders are often unable to pinpoint problems or evaluate remedies.

Many communities are working hard on individual facets of natural resource management and conservation. But there is a need for a comprehensive approach, based on the ecological system that ties together our resources. And to be effective in action, we need to consider all our soil and water resources in relation to community environmental objectives.

The Massachusetts Natural Resources Planning Program (MNRPP) is a unique approach to community involvement in natural resources planning. It provides citizens with the methodology and technical assistance to inventory, evaluate, and analyze their community's natural resources. It helps them use this information to make sound land-use decisions. And it gives local decision-makers the tools to chart the course of their community's future growth. However, MNRPP does not provide all the answers. It focuses on soils, water, woods, wildlife, and related natural factors which make up the base for any community development. Citizens and their leaders also must choose for themselves the social, cultural, economic, and political courses they desire. MNRPP will help them to understand how these choices will affect their community's natural resources, and how those resources may influence other aspects of their lives.

Your Community's Natural Resource Base

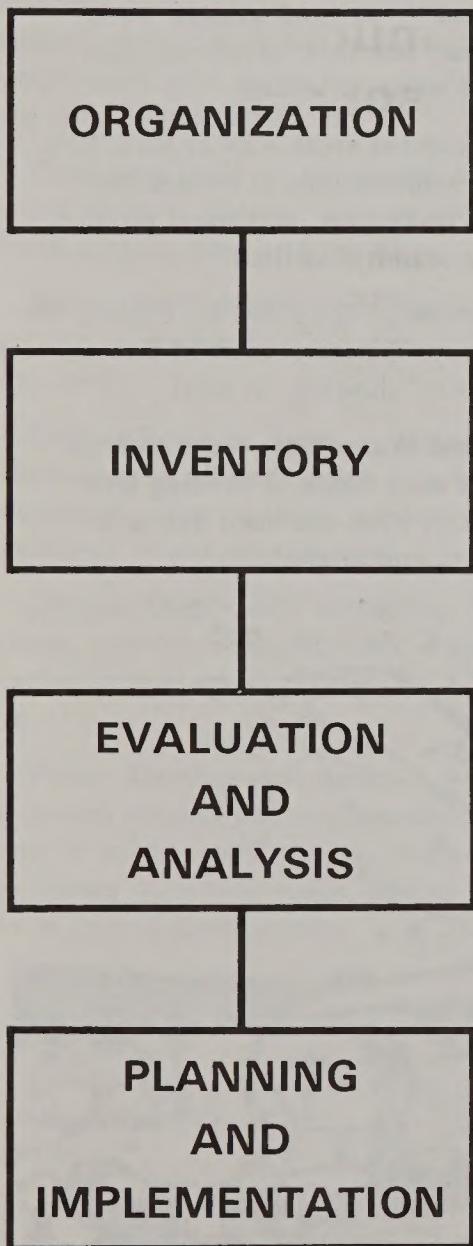
What makes a community? A list of ingredients would surely include homes, jobs, schools, marketing centers, roads; service lines for power, water, sewage and telephone; bus stops, airports, filling stations — and so on and on. A major item, of course, would be people. Too often overlooked is the natural setting, the world of earth, rock, water, field, forest, sun and air. This is the community's actual foundation.

As a community grows, it tends to occupy, displace, diminish or otherwise affect the resources making up its natural base. How much intrusion . . . of what sorts . . . and what degree of disturbance in this base will be acceptable to the community? The MNRPPProgram offers techniques to help the community make such judgements.

Community natural resource plans must be fashioned for the foreseeable, short-range as well as the long-term future — in the interest of generations to come.

MNRPP concepts suggest it is possible to over-use the natural resources of a given area. Unguided expansion and construction, then, may exceed the carrying capacity of the resource base — lowering the environmental quality to levels that result in community deterioration.

The Planning Process



The MNRPPProgram relies on the efforts of volunteers and local decisionmakers, with technical assistance provided by a Natural Resources Technical Team (NRTT) composed of personnel from state and federal natural resource agencies. The program is offered through the fifteen local conservation districts across the state.

The program consists of four phases:

Organization — Community leaders and volunteers, the conservation district, and the NRTT lay the groundwork for an effective program. Volunteers are given the training needed for their roles.

Inventory — Community volunteers inventory and map their community's resources, with the guidance of the NRTT. In addition, the NRTT conducts special technical studies.

Evaluation and Analysis — The volunteers evaluate and analyze the inventory findings. They identify the community's natural resource assets, needs, and problems. Ecologically sensitive areas are pinpointed and areas suited for future development are located.

Planning and Implementation — Based on its natural resource evaluation and analysis, the community makes specific plans and implements action programs to meet its goals for natural resource use and conservation.

Inventories and Maps Reflect Your Community's Resources

In gathering data for the MNRPP Program, volunteer committees inventory and map the natural resources within their community. Putting this information on maps gives most communities their first complete picture of their natural environment. The wealth of detail offered by the mapping process can be seen in this abbreviated catalog of maps:

Agricultural Land — tilled areas; managed for grass and hay; fruit and berry producing; idle farmland; tree and shrub nurseries, and greenhouses.

Municipal Water — surface waters used for supplying municipalities, industry, irrigation; fish hatcheries; commercial fishing ponds; well fields.

Recreation Land — areas used primarily for intensive outdoor recreation, with major types of activities available identified.

Recreation Water — areas used primarily for water-associated recreation, specifying kinds of recreation permitted; includes streams and rivers.

Urban Land — "built-up" areas used for residence, commerce, industry, transportation, institutions — identified specifically as to purpose.

Wildlife Land — areas used primarily for production or preservation of openland wildlife and woodland wildlife.

Wildlife Wetland — wet and shallow water areas; fresh and salt marshes; shrub swamps; used primarily for wetland wildlife.

Woodland — forested areas with at least 30% tree-crown cover, relationships to stream corridors, watershed protection, and wood production; types of tree stands classified.

All of the information described for each of the foregoing eight maps is then combined into one map, as a composite, showing, in total . . .

Present Land and Water Use — the location and boundaries of each block of existing land and water — exactly what the town has as a basis for evaluation and analysis.



In addition, community volunteers collect further information and compile other maps to complete the picture of their natural resource base. Some of these maps are:

Problem Areas — plotting of locations affected by air, sight, sound and material pollution from various sources including road salt, industrial and household wastes, agricultural erosion, street runoff, construction-site erosion, dumps, junkyards; high-level noises from traffic, manufacturing; flood-prone areas, etc.

Dedicated Land — non-urban areas whose use is not likely to change, such as preserves held in trust, historic sites and the like.

Recreation Facilities Location — public and private recreation facilities presently available in the town.

Unique Items or Areas — “one of a kind” landmarks of all sorts, such as geologic features, waterfalls, unusual views, ancient trees, or buildings of unique structure.

Historic Sites — old mill dams; blacksmith shops, one-room schoolhouses; battle grounds; early survey markers; significant homes; and so on.

Future Development Areas — boundaries of locations already definitely committed to some type of urban (construction) development, such as homes, factories, roads, and so on; identified as to type of development.



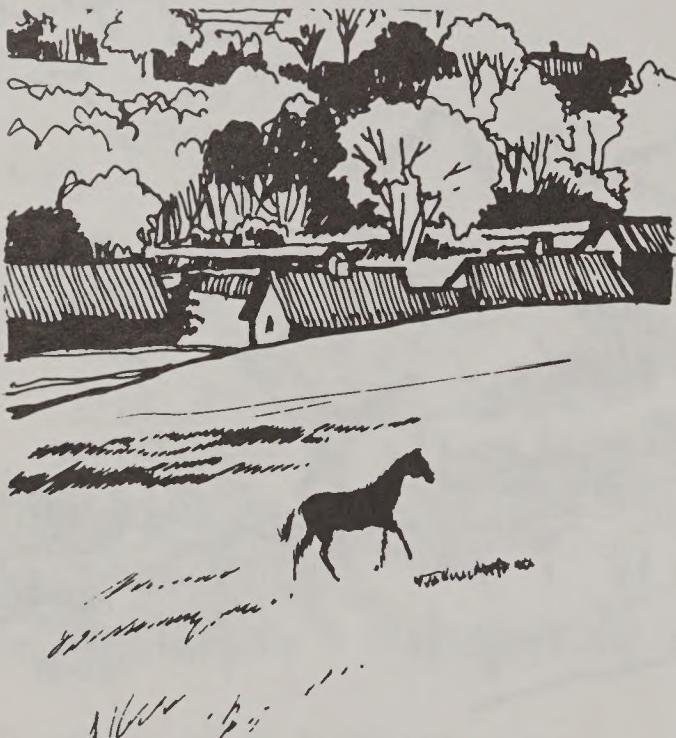
Rough Land — a delineation of steep, ledgy or extremely stony land, and extremely droughty (sand dune) soils.

Major Watersheds and Stream Patterns — featuring drainage patterns and watershed boundaries, indicating stream classifications with respect to Massachusetts water quality standards.

Wetlands — areas of wet soils, identified in the Town Operational Soils Report as poorly drained and very poorly drained soils. Includes swamps and other areas not identified as wildlife wetlands.

Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands — areas with soils of high productive potential whether or not currently in agricultural use; unique farmlands such as cranberry bogs or orchards.

Visual Resources — based on a survey of the preferences of community residents for carefully selected photographs of local scenes, visual assets and problems are identified and mapped.



Specialized technical studies may be made by the Natural Resources Technical Team or private consultants, such as:

Inventory of Sites Having Natural Resources

Development Potentials — (Natural Resources Inventory or NRI) — report prepared by NRTT emphasizing the outdoor recreation or conservation potential of natural resource sites or areas in a community.

Soil Interpretations — prepared as part of the prerequisite Operational Soils Report contracted between a town and SCS. Maps of interpretations on the limitation of soils for such items as construction, farming, woodland, sewage disposal, etc., which form the basis for a wide variety of analyses.

Potential Reservoir Sites — locations for water storage including pool sizes, dam centerlines, design features and estimated costs.

Floodplains — areas subject to flooding, up to 100-year frequency.

Ground Water Favorability — areas favorable for developing wells, including coding as to variable rates of water output in estimated gallons per minute.

Using combinations of these inventories and special studies, a variety of "Analysis Maps" can be developed. Using an "overlay" technique, information is combined to highlight specific problems or potentials, based on the community's needs and objectives.

Some of these possible analysis maps are:

Sensitive Areas — areas of land and water that are integral parts of the community's ecological system, whose protective and productive functions would be lost through improper management or inadequate protection. Such areas include, but are not limited to, wetlands, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas, water supply watersheds, steep slopes, and streams, lakes, and ponds.

Available Land — areas not yet committed to specific purposes, which do not present severe limitations for use for agriculture, forest, wildlife, community facilities, recreation, urban development, and many other activities.

Site Selection — areas with the best potential for selected future uses, such as community facilities, industrial parks, recreation areas, and many others. Analyses consider present land use patterns, soils characteristics, sensitive areas, special management measures, and many other factors.

Fitting Communities to Their Environments

With the environmental facts in hand, a community faces adjustments in developing its future land use plans. Economic and social needs must be accommodated. How can this be done without seriously harming natural resources?

An example: A community wants a new lake for swimming and camping. Which natural resource might be "traded" to achieve this objective? Clear (and give up) a wooded area for a lake-site? Flood some available farmland and thus exchange one type of open space for another?

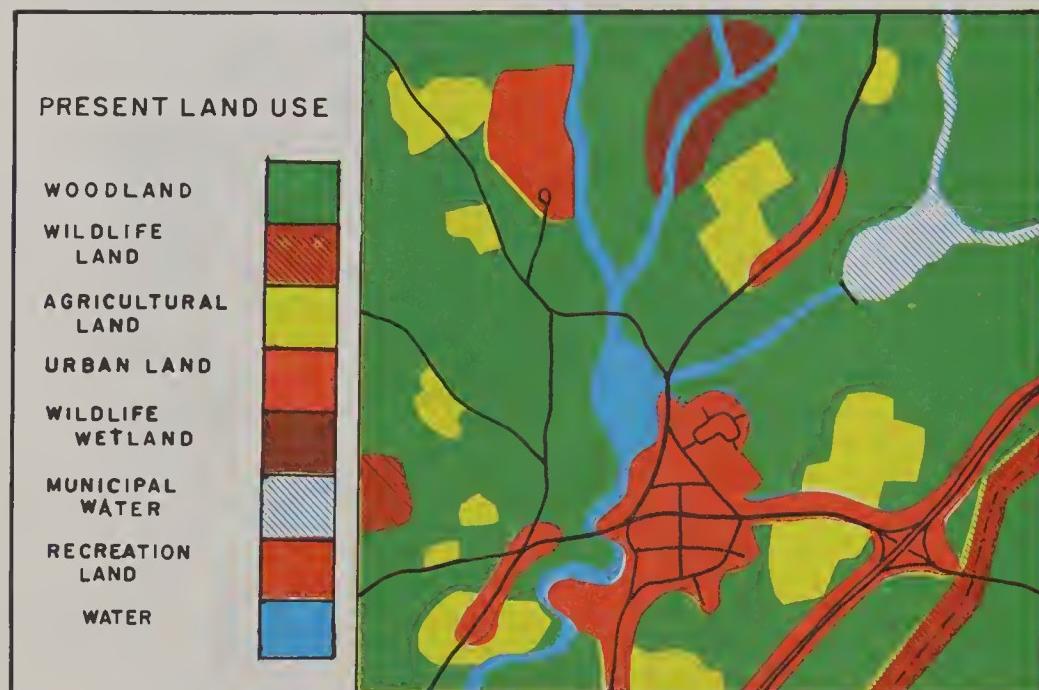
Another example: A city seeks new industry to provide nearby jobs. This will require more water (where to get the extra supply?); additional housing (what areas to build on?); added waste disposal (suitable sites for same?); more roads, schools, recreational areas (what land to select for development?). Will there be increased pollution? Will increased runoff raise flood levels or overload existing drainage systems? What will these changes mean for the community's visual quality?

To meet its needs, a community may find it must encroach on an ecologically sensitive area. What management techniques are available to minimize the impact, the potential problems, and community costs? How can the most effective tradeoffs be identified so as to accommodate necessary development and growth at the least environmental cost?

With the information and technical support provided through the MNRPP, an informed community can better answer questions like these and make decisions for a better future.



Charting Your Community's Future



The Present Land Use Map, compiled from the eight individual land use inventories shows the existing land use patterns within the community.

SENSITIVE AREAS

WETLANDS



WATERSHED

FLOODPLAIN -
STREAMBANK

STEEP SLOPES

The Sensitive Areas Map maps and studies showing sensitive areas, requiring management.

When combined, these inappropriate landuse areas. The community can then corrective or protective measures to many values of its sensitive areas.

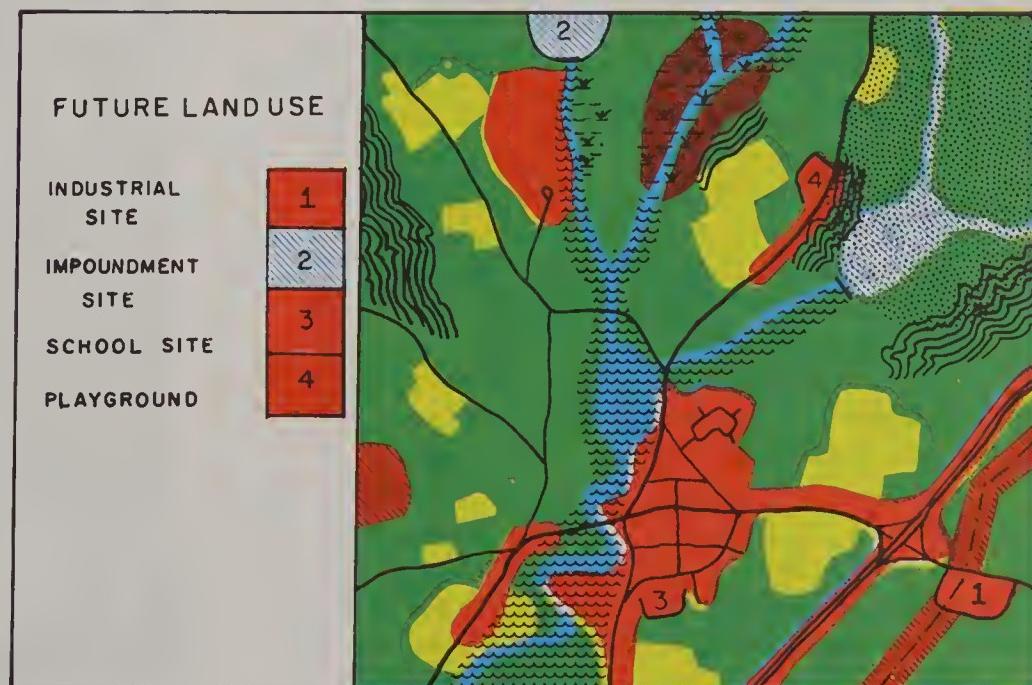


Map combines the several
long ecologically productive
protection or careful

maps highlight areas of
and potential problems.
select from alternative
measures to maintain the
productive areas.

Through the evaluation process, the community identifies future land use possibilities. Using interpretive soils maps and other information, the best available sites and areas for each of these land-use needs are identified. Sensitive areas are avoided, or protective management measures are chosen.

As these maps and analyses are combined, the community sees the possible patterns for its future land use emerge. The next step is to plan for action.



People Plus Planning Make MNRPP Work

Talent . . . energy . . . teamwork . . . imagination . . . will to get the job done . . . all these hallmarks of good citizenship are needed to make the MNRPP Program work for the community. It is the commitment and involvement of citizens that keeps the program moving through its four major phases: organization; inventory; evaluation and analysis; planning and implementation.



Community interest and concern starts the ORGANIZATION phase. An interested board or citizen's group requests information and assistance from the local Conservation District. Informational meetings are held to answer questions about the program.

Following sufficient discussion and a decision to proceed, the community applies to its local Conservation District. Upon approval, a Memorandum of Understanding is prepared. It is signed by the community, the District, regional planning agency as appropriate, members of the Natural Resources Technical Team (NRTT) and other agencies who will assist the community in the program. This Memo outlines the inputs and

commitments of each party.

The community organizes a steering committee composed of representatives of local boards or commissions and interested citizen's groups. This committee provides overall guidance for the community's MNRPP activities. The steering committee in turn appoints a coordinator, the "spark-plug" of the program. This key person ensures that the many volunteers work as an effective team.

The next phase, the INVENTORY, involves citizen volunteers in collecting information and preparing maps that detail the quantity, quality, and distribution of the community's natural resources. Volunteer inventory committees are organized by the steering committee and trained





by the Natural Resources Technical Team. Volunteers are given how-to-do-it guidance in conducting field inventories and in compiling inventory maps. Special training is provided so that volunteers recognize problems related to their community's natural resources. During this phase, the NRTT also prepares specialized technical studies and maps.

Citizens again play the key role in the third phase of the MNRPP — a critical EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS of all information assembled. They identify their community's natural resource assets, needs, and problems. With the assistance of the NRTT, the volunteers pinpoint ecologically sensitive areas and develop alternative strategies for protection or management. In light of the community's goals and needs, they locate areas best suited for future growth and development. Inventory and steering committees are the essential participants in this phase, but local boards and commissions and the public at large are vitally involved so that all viewpoints are considered. As a result of this evaluation and analysis process, the community is

presented with a range of recommended alternatives for action. Since these recommendations have been developed by the local volunteers on the steering and inventory committees, they reflect the nature and needs of the community itself.

Now, in the PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION phase, it is up to the community, its boards and citizens, to chart a course of action. The information and recommendations from the preceding phases can be put to many uses. Individual local boards may prepare special purpose plans for conservation, outdoor recreation, sewer facilities, or other purposes. MNRPP information can also be used in the natural resources segment of a comprehensive planning process.

Planning should lead to action. The strategies available to implement the community's plans include the entire range of legal and financial tools that have been developed in Massachusetts to help preserve our quality of life. In addition, continued technical assistance is available from the SCS and other NRTT agencies for implementing specific projects.



Citizens' Forum: Questions Answered About the MNRPP

Q: In simplest terms, what is the MNRPP Program method and how does it operate?

A: The MNRPP directly involves local officials and citizens in the inventory, evaluation, and analysis of their community's natural resources and in the planning and resulting actions for the sound use and management of those resources. Technical assistance is provided by specialists from state and federal agencies, but the final choices and decisions are up to the community.

Q: What is **urgent** about the MNRPP? Is there a real need to get into it right now?

A: It is never too early to plan for your community's future, to maintain or improve your quality of life, to provide for future needs, and to minimize the environmental and economic costs of land use decisions that ignore the limitations and capabilities of your natural resource base.

Q: Do local government leaders and citizens actually take part in MNRPlanning work, or is the job done by experts only?

A: Citizen volunteers do most of the fact-gathering needed for the NRPP. The steering committee and working committees take part in all phases of the process. The townspeople make all decisions.

Q: Our city is almost fully developed, hardly any open space left except for school playgrounds, one or two small parks and a couple of large old estates. What good would MNRPlanning do for us?

A: Your community may have as great a need for careful planning and management of its remaining open space as a rural community. The MNRPP can help your community to project the consequences of further development, to find solutions to present problems and to protect and/or improve your remaining natural resources.

Q: Who are the professionals that will help our community with the MNRPP Program — what kinds of technical help will they provide?

A: Natural Resources Technical Teams have members from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Division of Forests and Parks, Extension Service — and in coastal areas, Division of Marine Fisheries. Other agencies assist in special situations. These include the State Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Conservation Services, Division of Water Resources, Division of Water Pollution Control, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Team members provide help in all phases of the program.

Q: What are some examples of how the MNRPP Program will perform in improving our town's environment as a place to live, work and enjoy outdoor recreation?

A: Striking examples of the benefits of the MNRPPProgram include — improved siting of community facilities; zoning revisions; recreation developments featuring both land and water; nature areas for study and appreciation; preservation of wetlands and wildlife; open-space planning and prevention of congestion; protection of scenic views; preservation of agricultural land; better use of forest land; and so on.

Q: Does this approach have benefits that the average tax-paying family will notice and enjoy?

A: Any development that ignores the limitations and capabilities of the natural resources brings both public and private costs. If natural resources are ignored, citizens may be faced with wet basements, flood damages, unattractive surroundings and lowered property values. Community tax dollars must then be spent to correct problems or to provide additional services. The MNRPP provides the information base, the informed citizenry, and the technical assistance to help avoid some of these unnecessary added costs.

Q: Will the MNRPP system adapt readily to our present community way of life?

A: The MNRPP is designed to show people conditions of the natural resources around them, the problems and possibilities. What people do in terms of community actions to correct, maintain, or develop their natural resources will be entirely up to them.

Q: What is new, unique and advantageous about this method, as compared to other kinds of "comprehensive" planning?

A: The "do it yourself" element runs strong. Local citizens make their own inventories, weigh their own possible futures when the natural resource facts are in hand. The program faces up

to problems of over-stressed natural resources and to the need for management systems to prevent further problems. The MNRPPProgram is flexible and "open-ended", allowing for continuous monitoring of environmental quality and for making changes as the times change.

Q: Our town already has a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) done by the Soil Conservation Service and NRTT. Why do we need the MNRPP?

A: The Natural Resources Inventory, although still a valuable tool for use within the MNRPP, is oriented primarily toward sites with potential for outdoor recreation and conservation. The MNRPP provides a more comprehensive inventory, evaluation, and analysis of your community's natural resources within a process for active citizen involvement.

Q: Can the MNRPP fulfill the state planning requirements for eligibility for Self-Help or Bureau of Outdoor Recreation matching funds for open space and outdoor recreation?

A: Not entirely, but it can get you most of the way there. MNRPP provides most of the necessary information and a vehicle for public involvement. If a community wishes, it can structure its report of MNRPP inventory, evaluation, and analysis findings to fulfill part of the state requirements. The community then adds an action plan to complete the process.

Q: How soon could our town get started in the MNRPPProgram? How long does the planning process take?

A: "How soon" depends on the workload of the Natural Resources Technical Team when the request is made, as well as the degree of interest and need shown by the town. The time to complete the MNRPPProgram is largely determined by how fast the Steering Committee and inventory

committees wish to work, the number of people working on committees, and the cooperation and interest of all concerned.

Q: What will the MNRPP cost my community?

A: It's a bargain! Since local volunteers do much of the work, the community reaps the double benefit of low cost and an informed citizenry. Most technical support services and assistance are provided by the NRTT agencies without charge. Special additional studies may be performed on a cost-sharing basis. Most communities find their costs for materials and supplies to be between \$500 and \$1,000 depending on the number, quality, and size of maps selected and on the community's desires for report publication.

Q: Can any community get MNRPlanning help; what are the requirements for eligibility?

A: Any town is eligible. Application is made to the local Conservation District which establishes priorities for assistance based on a community's readiness to act, and the initial requirement is that a community have a soil survey completed or underway.

Communities Say That MNRPP Works

The proof of the MNRPP is found in the experiences of the communities whose efforts make it work.

In every MNRPPProgram, citizens' interest, participation, and awareness of their town's natural resource assets are primary benefits. In taking an active role in the planning, inventory, and mapping, townspeople gain a better understanding of their valuable natural resources, the potential for future resource development, and the need for resource conservation.

One town coordinator from eastern Massachusetts says: ". . . I feel that a citizen based program like this gives you the double benefit of both having the usual product but along with it, developing people who understand what you're talking about, who are intimately involved in the process of developing the resources and who can give you the kind of intelligent active support that a planning program based on environmental qualities has got to have . . ."

The benefits of MNRPP are numerous, and the list is growing. Some of this community benefit is well expressed by another town coordinator: "The Natural Resources Planning Program gave us a methodology to map and evaluate our resources and then assess them against other standards. It really worked well to do the kinds of things that no one had been able to do for the town before."

The key to the program's success — the combination of people and planning — is summarized by a coordinator from Worcester County. "I think the thing that makes this project so successful is that there is now an entire body of people who not only know how to use what they have created, but have learned (certainly) the rudiments of planning along the way. It's been super and that probably can't be overstated."



How Can I Get My Community Involved In MNRPP Planning?

The primary requirement for a community to participate in MNRPP is public interest and support. You can help to build that interest. You will need more information and a sponsoring group. A core of interested citizens, a local board or commission, or a citizen's group should contact the local Conservation District office to express interest. The Conservation District will arrange for a Cooperative Extension Service or Soil Conservation Service representative to further explain the program. Presentations can also be made to other groups in the community to help build understanding and support. If the community interest is there, the Conservation District, Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and State Natural Resource Agencies will help your community through the organization phase to build the base for a successful program.

Another "First"

The planning procedure outlined in these pages follows close upon other innovations for environmental management in Massachusetts. The Soil Conservation Service in Massachusetts was first in preparing comprehensive soil interpretive maps for communities. It also led the Nation in offering natural resource studies to inventory sites with development potential to help communities locate, conserve, and develop for the gamut of facilities needed by society.

The Massachusetts Natural Resources Planning Program has grown out of these earlier steps. After pilot studies in several towns and refinement of the program procedures based on field experience and comments from participants, the program is fully operational.

Massachusetts has adopted a team approach to unify the best of natural resources know-how within the State, and make it available to every community. Team members represent a broad spectrum of soil, water, biological, agronomic and related science "know-how." In addition, the Soil Conservation Service provides graduate students from the University of Massachusetts, Harvard University, and Yale University to directly assist MNRPP communities.

The team trains and assists community volunteers with the inventory, evaluation, and analysis of the community's natural resources. NRTT agencies can also provide their special expertise to assist with special-purpose planning and to provide implementation assistance through their many available programs.

Among the agencies cooperating in the MNRPP are:

Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Division of Conservation Services

Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management

Division of Forests and Parks

Division of Water Resources

Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreational Vehicles

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Division of Marine Fisheries

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering

Regional Planning Agencies

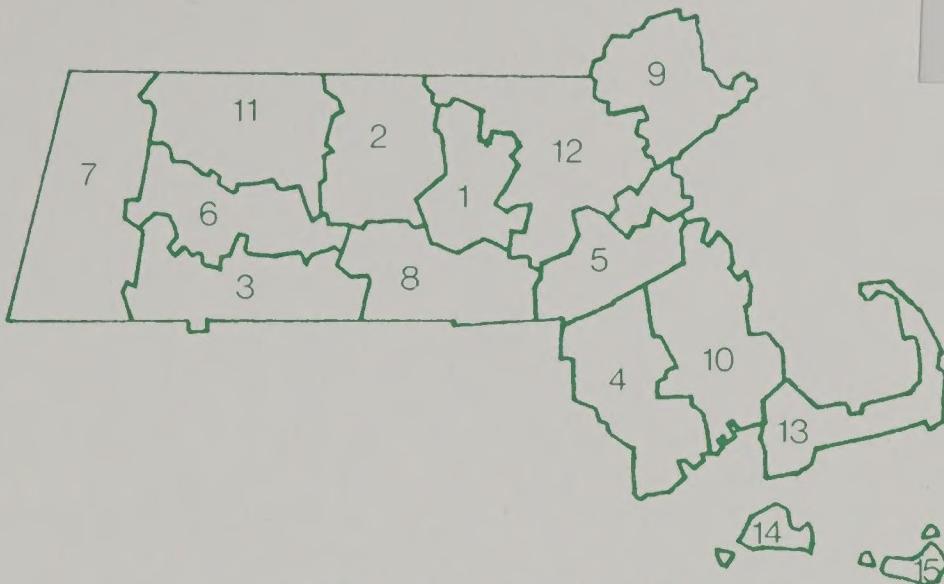
Local Conservation Districts

Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service

Soil Conservation Service, USDA



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CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Northeastern Worcester | 6. Hampshire | 11. Franklin |
| 2. Northwestern Worcester | 7. Berkshire | 12. Middlesex |
| 3. Hampden | 8. Southern Worcester | 13. Barnstable |
| 4. Bristol | 9. Essex | 14. Dukes |
| 5. Norfolk | 10. Plymouth | 15. Nantucket |

Applications for NRPlanning Assistance are processed by the Conservation District (CD) serving the area in which the applicant town is located. The offices of the 15 CD's are within easy reach throughout the Commonwealth.

ACTON (01720) — Middlesex CD,
15 Craig Road, Acton.
Tel: (617) 263-2679

HADLEY (01035) — Franklin, Hampden,
and Hampshire CD's, 4 Whalley Street,
Hadley. Tel: (413) 586-3900

HATHORNE (01937) — Essex CD, Essex
County Agricultural and Technical
Institute, Hathorne.
Tel: (617) 774-5578

HOLDEN (01520) — NE, NW and Southern
Worcester County CD's, 6S0 Main Street,
Holden. Tel: (617) 829-6661

PITTSFIELD (01201) — Berkshire CD,
20 Elm Street, Pittsfield.
Tel: (413) 499-4766

RAYNHAM (02767) — Bristol, Dukes,
Nantucket and Plymouth CD's,
153 Broadway, Raynham.
Tel: (617) 824-6668

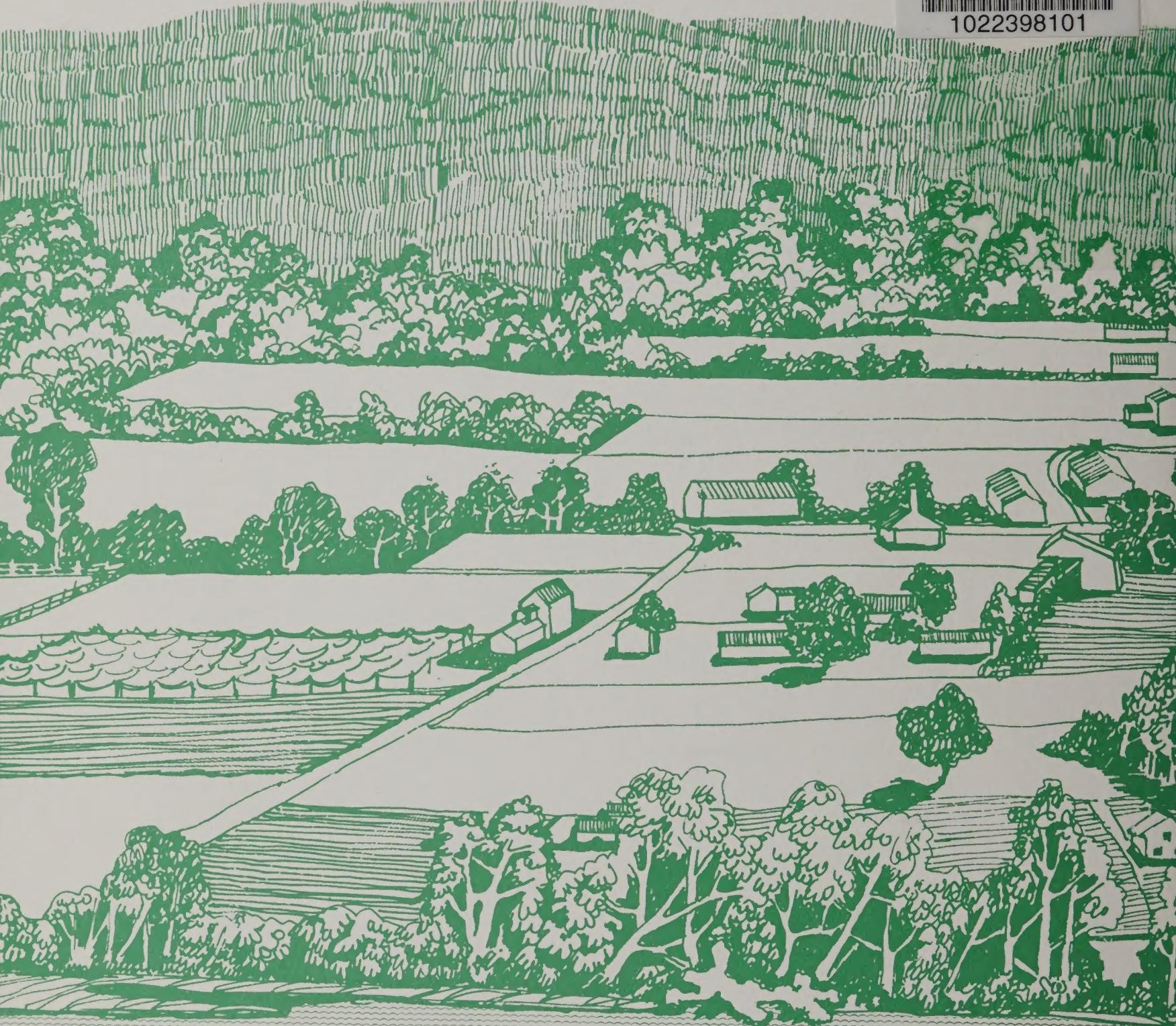
WALPOLE (02081) — Norfolk CD,
460 Main Street, Walpole.
Tel: (617) 668-0995.

YARMOUTH PORT (02675) —
Barnstable CD, 477 Main Street,
Yarmouth Port.
Tel: (617) 362-9332

All programs and services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are available to everyone without regard to race, creed, color, sex or national origin.



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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE